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Atomic Civil Defense in the European Satellites \*

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\* Note: This is an uncoordinated report prepared at the request of OCI and may not be quoted or used as reference. It represents the immediate views of

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Atomic Civil Defense in the European Satellites

In the past, civil defense in the European Satellites, as well as in the USSR, has accentuated training and protective construction which appeared to be primarily directed against aerial attack of the World War II type. Information describing the larger nuclear weapons or the possible area of heavy radioactive fall-out has not been disseminated to the general public. This lack of knowledge has not prevented the Soviets generally from establishing a significant potential for civil defense. The staff organization, auxiliary paramilitary bodies for civil defense, and training in such subjects as first aid, gas defense, rescue and repair, and sanitary measures will be of continuing value under conditions of nuclear attack.

Evidence is now accumulating which indicates that the Soviet defense authorities are considering the problems of nuclear defense. At the present time, they are introducing instruction in atomic civil defense and taking some measures which should improve civil defense capabilities against larger weapons.

Conditions of nuclear attack present such extensive problems for local civil defense organizations that some Western countries, for example, England<sup>1/</sup> and Denmark, are introducing mobilized civil defense.

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columns. The purpose of these is to support and supplement the efforts of local civil defense organizations, (Germany, of course, had such columns during World War II.)<sup>2/</sup> It is believed that the Servbloc has commenced the organization of similar troops. A

Czechoslovakian Civil Defense Battalion, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] was observed at Usti-nad-Labem in 1954.<sup>3/</sup> Another

Civil Defense Battalion was [REDACTED] at Prague.<sup>4/</sup>

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The Usti-nad-Labem battalion was reported to include engineer troops and "chemists." An organization which may be of similar character was observed in a training exercise at Budapest, Hungary

[REDACTED] in October, 1955.<sup>5/</sup> One hundred

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to one hundred-fifty uniformed troops were involved in an exercise which apparently included training in decontamination, damage control and possibly bomb disposal. The equipment of these troops included a radiotruck, field cookers, a small ambulance and a fire truck.

It is very possible that these troops belong to the technical

detachments of the Hungarian Air Defense Police [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Ministry of the

Interior ordered the formation of special emergency units in cities

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with more than 10,000 inhabitants in June, 1955. These units were to include details for emergency fire-fighting, construction and a special technical detail. The construction unit was to be in charge of clearing and salvage work. It is possible that the technical detail is a bomb disposal unit [redacted]

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[redacted] Similar units have not as

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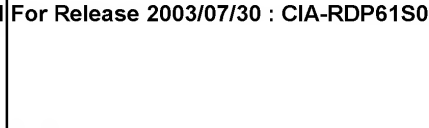
yet been reported in other Satellites but the initiation of these formations indicates continued effort to strengthen civil defense preparations. Wide-spread organization and training of these bodies, if it occurs, should be of value in reducing the consequences of nuclear attack.

The second development which improves the preparation of the European Satellites for nuclear warfare is a program for familiarizing the public with atomic weapons and the defense against them. In this effort, support is probably sought from organizations similar to the Society for the Dissemination of Political and

\* Including:

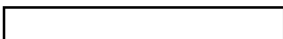
Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge--Czechoslovakia 8/  
Society for the Dissemination of Science and Culture--Rumania 9/  
Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge--East Germany 10/  
Popular Knowledge Society--Poland 11/  
Society for the Propagation of Social and Natural Sciences--Hungary. 12/

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Scientific Knowledge of the USSR. <sup>13/</sup> In Czechoslovakia, open publications have established close connections between the Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge and the SVAZARM (Society for Aid to the Army). \* <sup>14/</sup> Speakers of the scientific society prepared lectures in July, 1955 on nuclear weapons and protection against them. <sup>15/</sup> Lectures and courses on atomic physics were scheduled to be given in Czech factories in October 1955. <sup>16/</sup> The enlistment of organized technical personnel in delivering scientific lectures should make atomic defense lectures more informative and interesting, and arouse increased interest in civil defense training.

In Bulgaria, some instruction in civil defense against atomic weapons was initiated as early as 1953. <sup>17/</sup> 

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 the Bulgarian Minister of the Interior had ordered that courses in atomic and radiological defense be given in all organizations and industrial installations. The primary organization engaged in this training was to be the DCSB (Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation). <sup>\*\*</sup> Instructors were selected

\* The parallel organization of DCSAAF in Czechoslovakia.

\*\* A parallel organization to the Society for Cooperation with the Army, Air Force and Navy in the USSR which gives civil defense training to its members and to the general population.



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Party members who had taken special courses at the Ministry of the Interior.<sup>18/</sup> Lectures were given on atomic defense during 1954,<sup>19/</sup> but the type of information made available to the military suggests that descriptions of nuclear weapons were probably limited to discussion of the 20,000 ton bomb.<sup>20/</sup> During 1955, several open references were made in Bulgarian broadcasts, to public lectures on atomic weapons and defense.<sup>21/</sup> One of these made mention of the Bikini tests<sup>22/</sup> and another lecture included the use of a film.<sup>23/</sup>

Training in atomic defense in Czechoslovakia has received open mention in the press.<sup>24/</sup> In addition to the lectures mentioned above,<sup>given</sup> by the Society for Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge, SVAZANI members have received atomic lectures,<sup>25/</sup> and instructions for "self-help" groups\* in enterprises and dwellings now state that the groups must become familiar with atomic defense.<sup>26/</sup>

Although it has been reported that training the general population in atomic defense is planned,<sup>27/</sup> lectures or training have not been reported from East Germany except for those given on a very selective basis.<sup>28/</sup> The Society for Dissemination of Scientific Knowledge is designed to, among other missions, acquaint workers

\* Civil defense organizations made up of workers or inhabitants of factories, office buildings, dwellings, etc.

with atomic weapons, rockets and modern aviation. The section of the society charged with this activity will utilize specialists of the KVP (Garrisoned People's Police) and political functionaries. <sup>29/</sup> Such leaders have been prepared through courses in atomic defense given by Soviet officers in Germany <sup>30/</sup> or in the USSR. <sup>31/</sup>

From Hungary, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] atomic civil defense training was being given in factories. <sup>32/</sup> Wide-spread civil defense and first-aid training has, however, been carried on since 1952. An advanced technical course for civil defense officials has been reported which includes in its study topics, the elimination of landmarks near important military targets (possibly to limit radar "reflection"), and proposed reconstruction of piping systems to include the substitution of a belt network with many shut-offs for the older radial type system. <sup>33/</sup> Radiation detection instruments are being developed in Hungary, <sup>34/</sup> and a Hungarian physicist is reported to have attended atomic tests in Siberia in October, 1955. <sup>35/</sup> Such modern concepts combined with troop training for civil defense seem to indicate that attention is being given to preparation directed against heavy attack. If atomic defense training for the general population has not already begun it should commence shortly.

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In Poland, atomic defense information has been directed primarily to military personnel, although limited information on the subject has been published <sup>36/</sup> and broadcast. <sup>37/</sup> [redacted]

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[redacted] Polish medical school graduates of 1954 were given a month's military training, largely directed toward defense against the atom bomb. <sup>38/</sup> An interesting sidelight, possibly related to nuclear defense, was the publication of an article in Poland which stated that a knowledge of meteorology is indispensable for members of air and chemical defense groups of the Polish paramilitary society. Temperature, wind, and rain were said to determine the length of time a chemical agent is dangerous and also the direction of flight by threatened personnel. <sup>39/</sup> (According to U.S. authorities meteorological forecasting is also of value in determining the area of radioactive fall-out. <sup>40/</sup>) There is no doubt that Polish authorities are aware of problems arising from modern warfare but introduction of specific training may lag because of Poland's late start in preparing for civil defense. <sup>41/</sup>

Romania, like Poland, was late in organizing civil defense, <sup>42/</sup>

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[redacted]  
[redacted] Troops have been given some atomic training, <sup>43/</sup> and

it has been reported that university students take civil defense instructions which is both secret and compulsory. <sup>44/</sup>

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The fourth development of nuclear defense interest, and the most disturbing, concerns the reports of large underground shelters reported to be projected or built in areas outside of major Sovbloc cities. These include reports from Czechoslovakia, <sup>45/</sup> Rumania, <sup>46/</sup> Hungary, <sup>47/</sup> and Poland. <sup>48/</sup> [redacted] large

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shelters in the vicinity of a major city are from Sofia, Bulgaria.

In this area, [redacted] air raid shelters have been completed in five villages near the city with individual capacities as high as 17,000 persons. <sup>49/</sup> Construction in some of these five areas, three to ten miles from the city, has been confirmed, but there is some confusion as to the purpose of the construction. In Czechoslovakia, a decision to build "atomic bomb-proof" shelters has been reported. Construction was contemplated for ten cities. <sup>50/</sup>

Construction which may be implementation of this plan has been reported near the cities of Prerov, <sup>51/</sup> Usti-nad-Labem, <sup>52/</sup> Gottwaldov, <sup>53/</sup> and Liberec. <sup>54/</sup> [redacted] atomic

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bomb shelters "outside but near" Bucharest, Rumania. <sup>55/</sup> Evidence as to the purpose of these constructions is inconclusive, but it is possible that in several areas, at least, steps have been taken which should provide improved protection for some of the more important

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portions of the population. This might be expected to include personnel from Party, government, and security forces.

In conclusion, it may be stated that the European Satellites have been organized for civil defense along Soviet lines. Training activities for civil defense are widespread and have been accentuated during 1954 and 1955, particularly in places of employment and in paramilitary groups. Realistic training for nuclear defense against the larger weapons has not taken place although atomic defense familiarization courses are being carried on in some, if not all, the principal European Satellites. A scheme combining evacuation and shelter in suburban areas may be developing, but is probably not yet adequate to care for more than the principal governmental control personnel.

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